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Social and human rights questions

Letter dated 14 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

As you are aware, during the past three years, Viet Nam has been protesting the participation by Kok Ksor and the organization he created and presides over — the Montagnard Foundation, Inc. (MFI) — in United Nations meetings and conferences, for the fact that they are pursuing the subversive and separatist objective of creating an "independent State of Degar" in the central highlands of Viet Nam and, in the pursuit of this objective, they are engaging in terrorist activities. While the question was still under consideration by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, Viet Nam had exercised utmost restraint in order not to complicate the process leading to a suitable solution to the matter. At the request of Viet Nam, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations has decided to suspend for three years the consultative status of the Transnational Radical Party (TRP) for the reason that it had accredited Kok Ksor and MFI, thus giving them unjustifiable permission and protection to attend United Nations meetings and conferences in its name. While believing and hoping that the Economic and Social Council will adopt this appropriate decision by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, whatever may be the outcome of the Council's deliberation, Viet Nam will continue to consider the participation by Kok Ksor and MFI in any United Nations meeting or conference as running counter to the spirit and purposes of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council, a violation of the Charter of the United Nations. Viet Nam will continue to protest and work towards their expulsion. As the Economic and Social Council is going to deliberate on agenda item 14, with sub-items relating to reports submitted by its subsidiary bodies, such as the Commission on Human Rights and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in which Kok Ksor and MFI have been wrongly permitted to participate, I wish to reaffirm to you the above-mentioned view of the Vietnamese Government and hereby request that this letter be circulated as a document of the 2004 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council under

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agenda item 12, "Non-governmental organizations", and agenda item 14, "Social and human rights questions".

(*Signed*) **Le Luong Minh**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative